Review of the Working of the Schools for the Blind

34. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have undertaken any review of the working of the schools for the blind in various parts of the country to know the deficiencies if any, in the matter of teaching facilities, books and living conditions ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to improve their functioning ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The schools for the blind are severally run by the voluntary agencies and some by the State Governments. Government has not undertaken a review of the working of the schools of the blind in various parts of the country.

(b) However, to enable handicapped students, particularly the blind, to receive education the following facilities are offered by the Central Government :—

(1) Scholarships are given to all handicapped students to pursue education beyond class IX in schools and in degree and post-graduate courses. Scholarships are also available to pursue medical and engineering education and for in-plant training.

(2) Financial assistance is provided by the Ministry of Welfare to voluntary organisations for providing education and vocational training for handicapped students including the blind.

(3) The National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, manufactures special equipments for the blind like braille slates, abacus and other educational material for free distribution to blind students through voluntary organisations or states Governments.

(4) The Central Government had provided funds to set up braille presses throughout the country to produce braille books for distribution to blind students.

(5) The National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, conducts training programmes for secondary school and primary school teachers of the blind.

(6) The Ministry of Education implements a programme of Integrated Education for the blind through the State Governments. Under the Scheme selected schools are assisted with resource rooms, special teachers, etd. to help blind students in their education.

(7) Under-the-Aids and Appliances Scheme this Ministry provides educational Kits, braille measuring devices, braille writers and tape recorders for certain categories of blind students free of cost or at subsdised rates depending on the family income of the blind students.

Chambal Command Area Development, Rajasthan

35. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on the Chambal Command Area Development in Rajasthan, whch was started with the aid of World Bank has stopped ;

(b) of so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) when the second phase of the Command Area Development is likely to be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Phase I of Command Area Development Project in Chambal was started by the State Government in July, 1974 with the assistance of World Bank and was completed in June, 1982. However activities under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme are continuing.

(c) The State Government has still to take a final view on taking up Phase II of the Command Area Development Project.

Sainik Housing Cooperative Society Farms in Delhi

36. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 725 given in Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November 1985, regarding representation from the Delhi Sainik Cooperative House Building Society and to state when it was received and what action has been taken on the memorandum by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : The representation was received on 8-11-1985. The entire matter is under consideration.

T.V. Relay Centre at Kota

37. SHRI BHUVANESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state : (a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to strengthen and upgrade the TV relay centre at Kota in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Subject to actual availability of funds it is proposed to replace the existing low power (100 Watt) TV transmitter at Kota by a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter during the VII Plan period.

A.I.R. Station Kota

38. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) by when the building of A.I.R. station at Kota in Rajasthan is likely to be completed; and

(b) when the A.I.R. station is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) The construction of the building works has almost been completed. The Departmental work relating to the transmitter and the studio fixtures has been taken up. These are likely to be completed by June 1986. The station will be commissioned thereafter.

Indo-Mongolian Pact on Farm Research

39. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL :
SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indo-Mongolian pact on farm research has recently been signed; and